

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, January 18, 1842, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 18, 1842.

My Dear Genl, I recd your kind letter of the 1st Inst. on which day I despatched my last to you. I have presented to your friends the good wishes of the New Year with which you greeted them in yours, and all feel flattered, as I do, at your remembrance of us. If you read the Globe regularly, you will find that you are very often in the minds of your friends. Indeed you will have to pardon me, for too frequently bringing your principles and opinions to view, and especially those which your confidence intrusts me with, in your private correspondence. My apology must be the influence they have in uniting our friends. With this view I published so much of your letter which anticipated the message of the President on the Exchequer. All our friends unite in your views and I have no doubt that we shall have no fiscalty for the payment and that we will come back to the Independent Treasury during the next Congress.

23rd January. I had written you thus far when the Senate going into Secret Session turned me out of my desk, where I sit to watch the enemy from day to day. Since the Whigs have come together to preserve Clay's 0160 136 Extra Session measures, they have added five millions to the loan, by means of Treasury notes. This unmaskes their policy. It is to create a debt for the Basis of a Bank and a Tariff and at the same time provide against the necessity of calling back the distribution. I should not be surprized, if by the time Tyler's goes out, the debt should be as great, as when you came in. The Clay Whigs are evidently approximating the Webster or Walpole Whigs, with a

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view to maintain and carry all federal measures as far as possible, to end in their ultimate consummation in a Bank Govt. The Democracy will arrest them before they reach this point. I think it probable that Clay will effect new bargains now to save his distribution Bill and the Bankrupt law by some sort of modification of the latter. He is evidently making some effort of this kind, in his joint canvass of the two Houses. But all those patched up truces and compromises will vanish with the momentary occasion, that gives birth to them.

An incurable schism is underneath all the temporary projects which the two branches of Whiggery are putting forth, to cover their naked and substantive designs. Webster and Tyler are laboring to eke out their political existence. Clay and his clique are at least to support them. Each hate the other more than they do the Democrats—bankism Benton or any body. One of Clays leading friends told me this, in so many words—a confession unnecessary to one who so thoroughly understands the game and the parties.

I had a letter from Pickett our chargé at the remotest South American Republic. ¹ He writes me, that he sees from the opposition papers that you have been ruined by security-slips for your friends. How the opposition lies fly!! I mention this only to give you proof how much you are loved by men whom you have probably forgotten, for Pickett says your friends must instantly pay off all your debts, without your knowing, and authorizes me to set him down as one and advance the necessary quota. He is as honest and grateful a man as lives. I will write to him how unnecessary his contribution is. Lewis brought this subject to my recollection today, by stating to me that you were disappointed in getting the loan which you expected at New Orleans to meet your engagements for Andrew. If this be so; and it be at all necessary to you, I can lend you as much as you want as soon as the appropriation Bill passes. I am in great hopes it will pass very soon; for I have not had a cent of all my advances and earnings from the last Congress, beginning two years ago and the Departments owe me upwards of 20 000$.

¹ James C. Pickett, chargé des affaires in Peru.

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My wife is happy to hear that the stockings hold out so well. 2 She hopes you will live to use up many more of them and means therefore to look out for a new pair of the same sort. She and Betsy are both well and send their fondest love to you and beg to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Jackson and the pretty progeny she has brought you.

2 This sentence refers to a pair of woolen stockings given to Jackson by Mrs. Blair when he retired from the presidency. Jackson mentioned them frequently in his letters and said he believed they would outlast his life.

Yo. friend truly and affectionately